

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 TRSE-00 DLOS-04

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /088 R

DRAFTED BY L/EUR:KSGUDGEON:NMC

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EUR/CAN - MR. JANOWSKI

OES/ENP/EN - MR. SPIELMAN

----- 107063

O R 242130Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: POPLAR RIVER

1. WITH BUT A FEW DAYS REMAINING BEFORE IJC SEMIANNUAL MEETING DEPT HAS COORDINATED WITH EXTAFF (BRADY) ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF A JOINT LETTER TO THE COMMISSION ON THE POPLAR. WE PROPOSE TO FINESSE EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT PROBLEM BY QUOTING OBJECTIVE OF STUDY AS PROPOSED BY THE IJC BOARD WHICH INCLUDES EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT LANGUAGE.

2. DEPT HAS CONFIRMED PREVIOUS INFORMATION THAT THE IJC'S TASK FORCE ON THE POPLAR IS ENGAGED IN INVESTIGATING NEED FOR INTERIM MEASURES ON POPLAR AND IS PLANNING TO COMPLETE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT OF ENTIRE SYSTEM BY NEXT FEBRUARY. WE ARE TOLD THAT RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERIM MEASURES WILL NOT DIFFER FROM LONG TERM RECOMMENDATION ON EAST POPLAR. IN LIGHT OF THIS INFORMATION, WE CAN DROP INTERIM MEASURES

PARA OF PROPOSED IJC LETTER. (FYI: EXTAFB APPARENTLY UN-AWARE THAT BOARD IS CONSIDERING SUCH MEASURES.)

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DELIVER ASAP FOLLOWING NEW DRAFT TEXT TO USA DIVISION (BRADY), DRAWING ON ABOVE PARAS. RESPONSE FROM EXTAFB SHOULD BE SOLICITED IN TIME TO COORDINATE SENDING OF LETTERS NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26. EXTAFB SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT WE BELIEVE THIS DRAFT SHOULD SATISFY THEIR PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS, AND THAT IF AGREEMENT DOES NOT APPEAR PROBABLE, DEPT WILL COMMUNICATE ITS VIEWS TO THE COMMISSION.

4. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. BULLARD: THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA APPRECIATE THE INITIATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION IN ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS WHICH EXIST REGARDING THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION'S PROJECT ON WATER USES IN THE UNITED STATES. IN PARTICULAR THE GOVERNMENTS APPRECIATE THE TIMELY RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOURIS-RED RIVERS ENGINEERING BOARD IN ITS MARCH 26 LETTER TO THE COMMISSION THAT IT BE INSTRUCTED "TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE POPLAR RIVER BASIN WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS ON AN EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT OF THE FLOWS OF THE POPLAR RIVER SYSTEM SO AS TO SAFEGUARD USES OF WATER IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND ENABLE EACH COUNTRY TO MAKE SOUND WATER DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE AREA", AND THE COMMISSION'S DECISION AT ITS APRIL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING TO SO INSTRUCT THE BOARD.

5. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WISH TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO THE REFERENCE OF JANUARY 12, 1948, AND IN PARTICULAR, NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 THEREOF, TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO IDENTIFY EXISTING AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE USES OF THE WATERS OF THE POPLAR SYSTEM AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES WHICH WILL SECURE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. AS THE COMMISSION NO DOUBT APPRECIATES,
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PRODUCTION OF A REPORT BY NEXT SPRING WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN ENSURING THAT INTERESTS ON THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE EAST POPLAR ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED.

6. THE GOVERNMENTS HAVE HELD TWO MEETINGS INVOLVING FEDERAL, STATE AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THIS PROJECT. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE PRINCIPALLY FOCUSED ON THE PROTECTION OF AIR QUALITY, AND HAVE ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. A MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6 IN OTTAWA TO FURTHER CONSIDER

THIS ASPECT, AND GOVERNMENTS WILL KEEP THE COMMISSION INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S INTERNATIONAL AIR POLLUTION ADVISORY BOARD HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN THE COURSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.

7. AT THE COMMISSION'S MEETING LAST APRIL THE COMMISSION AND COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENTS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FURTHER INVOLVEMENT BY THE COMMISSION IN THE AIR AND WATER QUALITY ASPECTS OF THE POWER CORPORATION'S PROJECT. IN LIGHT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, THE GOVERNMENTS WISH TO RESERVE FOR THE PRESENT THE QUESTION OF A NEW REFERENCE TO THE COMMISSION ON THESE MATTERS. A SIMILAR LETTER IS BEING SENT TO THE CANADIAN SECTION OF THE COMMISSION BY THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. END TEXT.

ROBINSON

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